Reviewer’s report

Title: Management of patients with early stage lung cancer – why do some patients not receive treatment with curative intent?

Version: 0 Date: 02 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Ian Woolhouse

Reviewer's report:

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The manuscript describes the treatment and outcome for patients with early stage lung cancer in New Zealand. In particular, the factors associated with the receipt of curative treatment. The manuscript is well written and appears to be based on sound statistical methods. The results serve as useful assurance for the local lung cancer service but do not add significantly to the literature on treatment and outcomes for lung cancer. Further comments are shown below:

The study is based on registry data but the sample size is relatively small at under 600 cases of stage I and II disease.

Registry data usually includes missing values. This is not described in the results. For example, were lung function test results available for all patients?

It is not clear from the methods if all of the analyses included multiple logistic regression to take into account the effect of confounding variables. The results are difficult to interpret without this information.
The finding that patients who are older with poor lung function and poor performance status are less likely to receive curative treatment is neither surprising or new. Of more interest is whether there was an opportunity to better optimise these patients to facilitate curative treatment and whether they were offered a second opinion or high risk surgery.

Comparing the outcome of surgery versus SABR is subject to selection bias and should be interpreted with extreme caution. This should explicitly stated in the manuscript.

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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None

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